

## The end of rail?

City/port debate explores merits of railbanking early versus status quo

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# H

alfway into the three-year countdown to the end of rail service for Astoria, city and port officials have opened the door on discussions which may lead to a better deal with Burlington Northern Railroad if rail service is discontinued early.

Railbanking the Astoria line would

open up new opportunities for Astoria's waterfront at a time when a \$20 million hotel-seafood center complex is on the verge of breaking ground. But would such a deal put a jinx on port marketing efforts for the foreseeable future? Or, would the community hold up progress in tourism — an industry some foreign investors, particularly those lending the millions for the seafood center hotel, are willing to bank on — for unrealistic hopes that industrial jobs will return?

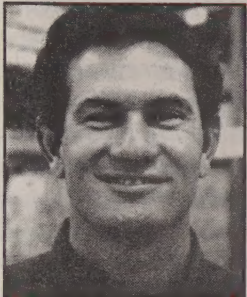
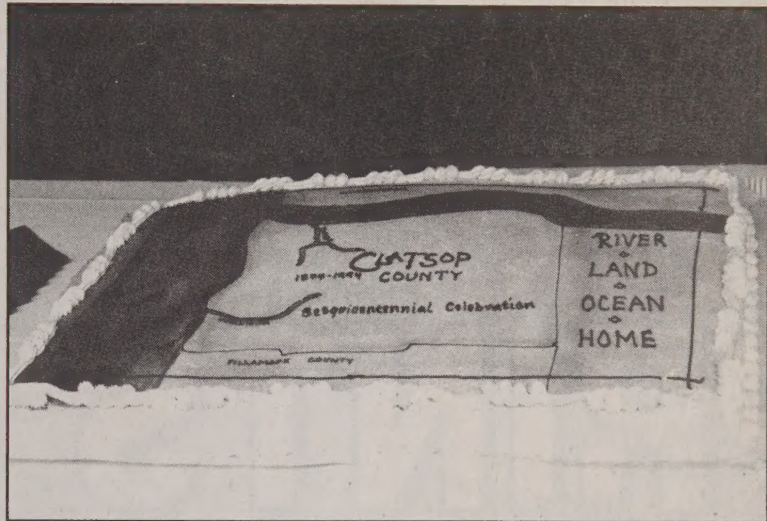
The dilemma for city and port officials took shape at a June 23 meeting at Astoria city hall.

Fueling the debate is the crucial matter of timing.

"What advantages are there for starting rail banking now as opposed to later," asked Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen at the joint meeting. Though his question went unanswered at the meeting, Rick Gustafson, project manager for the Seafood Con-

Photo by Charlie Fletcher

**Five hundred pieces of cake:** The county's oldest bakery was a natural for supplying the county's 150th birthday cake for an estimated crowd in the hundreds June 22. See page 12.



### Cities in Schools:

Doug Homer, manager of Price Costco, in Warrenton, is excited about giving away 450 backpacks full of school supplies to students at Lewis and Clark Elementary School, in Astoria.

See page 20.

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## Rail banking cont'd

sumer Center, provided some insight into what he said would be a painful decision-making process for the community.

Some have suggested that the hotel, slated for breaking ground in late fall, and under development by Northwest Conference Resorts, is forcing the issue. It's a lot more complicated than that, said Gustafson. Though a set of four tracks, the Astoria line's current switch-

ing yard, poses a problem for the hotel/seafood center complex — "it basically wipes out the hotel," said Gustafson — a negotiated agreement with Burlington Northern will solve that problem regardless of the decisions the community makes on the rail line.

The Seafood Consumer Center has been working for two and a half years on an agreement with the railroad to relocate the switching yard. Gustafson expects that agreement to be consummated in the coming weeks. "That's be-

ing done in order to assure we could build the hotel regardless of decisions by the community for rail banking," he said. "Otherwise, it's far too much pressure to be placed on the community — it's far too big of an issue to rest the hotel on."

But an opportunity exists to gain a waterfront park at a bargain rate, says Gustafson, if the community moves on rail banking before the money is paid to Burlington Northern for the access necessary to build the hotel. He estimates the sum could exceed \$300,000. Should the public funds used for spot land acquisition from the railroad company to site the hotel instead be leveraged to gain access to the entire waterfront by cashing in rail service early? asks Gustafson. That's the question the community needs to answer in the next several months, he said.

The price tag for that rail acquisition would be paid from Urban Renewal funds through tax increment financing. In short, the money comes from the extra taxes the community pays while property taxes from improvements within the urban renewal fund are collected but not thrown in the common pot. Instead, that money is used to pay for public improvements in the district.

In early 1993, Burlington Northern officials warned the community that unless rail service increased to around 2,000 cars a year, from its current rate of 50 or so cars a year, the company would be forced to abandon the rail line. Company officials said the community had three years to market the rail service to industrial firms. Halfway through the deadline, some leads seem possible, but the community still falls far short of the needed rail service.

Gregory Jenks, the state's local business development officer, says Cresmont's proposed lease with the Division of State Lands for the North Tongue Point Site could lead to 20 cars a week. Warren Kan, president of the Port of Astoria, told the community at the June 23 meeting that he was working on a deal for the port with a company which would import raw materials from Texas for manufacturing here and export finished goods elsewhere. The company would be a strong user of rail service, he said.

But, for now, rail service still stands at 50 cars a year — 30 full cars from

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Astoria Warehousing, and 20 cars from Cryo-Shield Enterprises, Inc., empty cars which have been refurbished by the local company. If rail service ends, Cryo-Shield has said it would have to relocate the company, which employs up to several dozen workers on a temporary basis when work orders come in. John Supple, owner of Astoria Warehousing, says his customers will probably choose trucking as an alternative mode of transport should rail service be discontinued.

When and if rail service is discontinued, one of two things could happen. Rail banking, which appears to be the preferred option for both the railroad company and local officials, occurs when a government entity assumes liability for the existing corridor and puts the land to public recreational use. In the event that a need for rail service reappears in the future, the corridor can be retrieved from its "banked" status and reactivated as a rail line. The track can either be removed or left as is on rail-banked lines. If track is left in place, a rail banked line can literally be reopened in a matter of months, according to Claudia Howells, of the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

Rail banking was made possible by an act of Congress in 1983, in an effort to avoid the fragmentation of transportation corridors for future use.

The second option would result in a fragmented corridor when land titles for the rail right-of-way revert to other owners as set forth in deeds that are in some cases over 100 years old. Reconstructing these deeds can be difficult, said Howell. Two adjacent business owners, Supple, and Tom Carmichael, of Carmichael Oil in Astoria, said such a scenario would put land back on the regular tax rolls as private owners took on sections of the old line.

But future tax revenue could pale in comparison to the potential deal that Astoria could get if it gracefully bows out early.

"The implication is that they could give it to us for free," said Paul Benoit, community development director for

Astoria. He pointed out that rail repair crews have been in Astoria for several weeks and it's to the railroad company's advantage to cut their losses early.

In a meeting with Burlington Northern earlier this year, Gustafson said he came away with the feeling that "it may be a better arrangement with BN if there was a longer term package than a short-term package," he said. "If it was done in a broader vision, the city might get access to the entire waterfront."

However, the idea of walking away early is painful to the community, said Gustafson.

"The hard part is fighting through the emotion. For 20 or 30 years, there's been a community effort to save the railroad," he said.

Sen. Joan Dukes, D-Svensen, in a conference call from Salem to the joint city-port meeting June 23, questioned whether the community had done all it could to preserve rail service. "It's very difficult for me to see giving up the line," she said. "Other communities have fought hard to avoid abandonment. It's hard to play poker when we don't have as many cards as the next player."

"We have a great need for good-paying industrial jobs. To my knowledge, a marketing effort has never been made to recruit those companies that use rail. I would like to bring people to the table to help you. I hope you will agree we should use the time wisely and productively to recruit those companies that use rail," she said.

Gustafson said the knowledge base on this issue has rested with himself and J.W. (Bud) Forrester because of their involvement with the Seafood Consumer Center. "But it's not good form having me carrying everybody through that. I'm too attached in people's minds to the hotel. The last thing we want is to have the hotel caught in a railroad fight."

"The hotel is not forcing the railroad out," he said. "But at the same time, the Urban Renewal District faces very hefty costs to essentially prepare land in those circumstances. If we could get people to understand it's their money." ■

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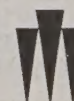


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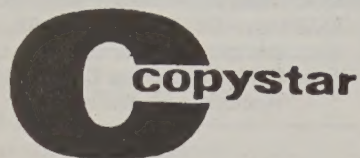
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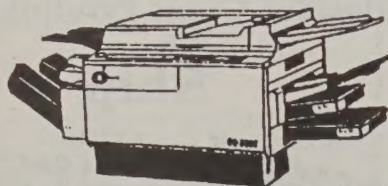
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## New Bizz

# High kicks

Seaside karate instructor makes the jump to Astoria

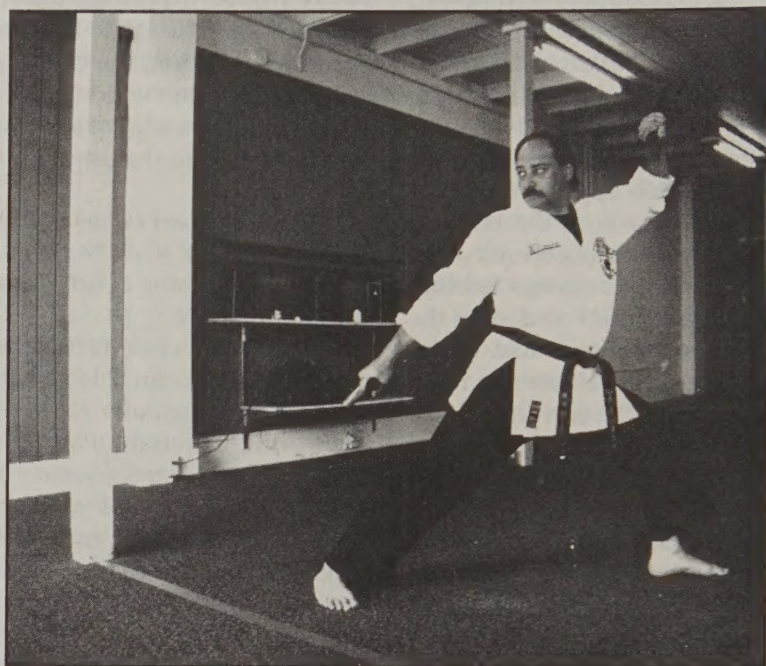


Photo by Charlie Fletcher

*Jesse Lee Spencer strikes an imposing stance in his new studio.*

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**W**ith a quick, respectful bow and a traditional, Asian flourish,

American Martial Arts Academy opened its new Astoria location in June.

Jesse Lee Spencer, who also opened a school of the same name in Seaside in September, now offers karate classes at both ends of Clatsop County. He currently has about 100 students enrolled at both of the schools.

Spencer moved to the Coast in August from the Portland area, where he was a karate instructor for the past 4 years. After coming to the area many times as a tourist, he decided to bring his teaching skills to the place he'd come to love.

"It's a quite a change," said Spencer. "There's a special quality of people here who are looking for a better quality of life." Before moving to the area, Spencer was an instructor for a large company in

the Portland metropolitan area. He taught in three of the company's eight schools in Portland, Salem and Vancouver, Wash.

Spencer got his start in martial arts while he was a military policeman in the Marines. He began training in judo as a part of his military training in 1973. However while stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Spencer spent two years studying aikido.

There are many forms of martial arts practiced in Asia. All the styles contain some element of training for self defense, physical fitness, competition and spirituality, Spencer said. However the emphasis of the training varies with the style and the instructor.

After leaving the Marines in 1978, Spencer experimented with a number of martial arts styles before finally settling on karate. He began his karate training in 1987, and started teaching full time in 1991.

Karate is a Japanese martial art. The



full name of the technique is karate-do, which means "the way of the empty hand" in Japanese. Spencer's curriculum stresses not only the physical fitness and self defense aspects of the art, but also the skills of self discipline and concentration.

He offers classes for all ages, including sessions for children, adults and a special series of self defense classes designed only for women.

The classes are especially useful for children, who, Spencer says, gain important skills for dealing with the dangers and temptations of today's environment.

Adult classes have a greater emphasis on physical fitness, and include low-impact aerobic and calisthenics along with the karate training.

Children's training emphasizes improving eye-hand coordination, flexibility, balance, posture, body strength, and conditioning, said Spencer. Then mental training centers around developing habits and attitudes, such as learning to listen to and follow directions, accepting responsibility. These skills are practiced in both individual and group settings.

While children do learn fighting skills in the classes, Spencer says the emphasis is on having the self-confidence to walk away from conflict.

Doug Homer, manager of Price Costco, in Warrenton, recently put his seven-year-old son in Spencer's karate classes. "I think it's going to be great. He's getting a lot of personal attention."

Spencer's Women-Only Self-Defense classes are a break from the traditional karate training. No uniforms are required. The classes are simply designed to teach women to protect themselves. The classes teach women how to evaluate a situation for potential danger, and how to escape harm.

The biggest barrier to participating in karate training, says Spencer, is fear of being intimidated. Many people procrastinate, and never come in to see what the classes are really like. In reality, the pace is relaxed. "Everything is progressive," he said. "We take our time; nothing is rushed." ■

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## Bank of A manager returns to Seaside



Kathy Fox has been named assistant vice president and manager of branch operations at Bank of America's Seaside branch, according to Denise Bushnell, branch manager. In this position, she is responsible for business operations, staffing, customer service and sales support at the branch.

Fox has 10 years of banking experience and for the past several years was branch operations manager at Bank of America's North Bend branch. Prior to that, she served in a variety of retail branch sales and customer service positions in North Bend, Seaside and Astoria.

An accounting and business management graduate of Southwestern Oregon Community College, Fox was a campaign representative for Bank of America's 1993 United Way campaign and was the bank's representative to the Pony Village Mall Merchants Association in North Bend.

Fox, who was born in Seaside and graduated from Astoria High School, has lots of friends and family in Clatsop County, and is happy to be on the North Coast. "I just thoroughly love it here," she said. She has spent the last 10 years working in Coos Bay/North Bend. ■

## TAX TALK

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- Combine business and pleasure on a vacation trip and you may be able to deduct your travel cost. Again, check the tax rules first.
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**NOTE:** The general information in this column should not be acted upon without professional guidance.

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## New Bizz

# Clear moves

Manzanita engineering firm stakes out fertile territory in county

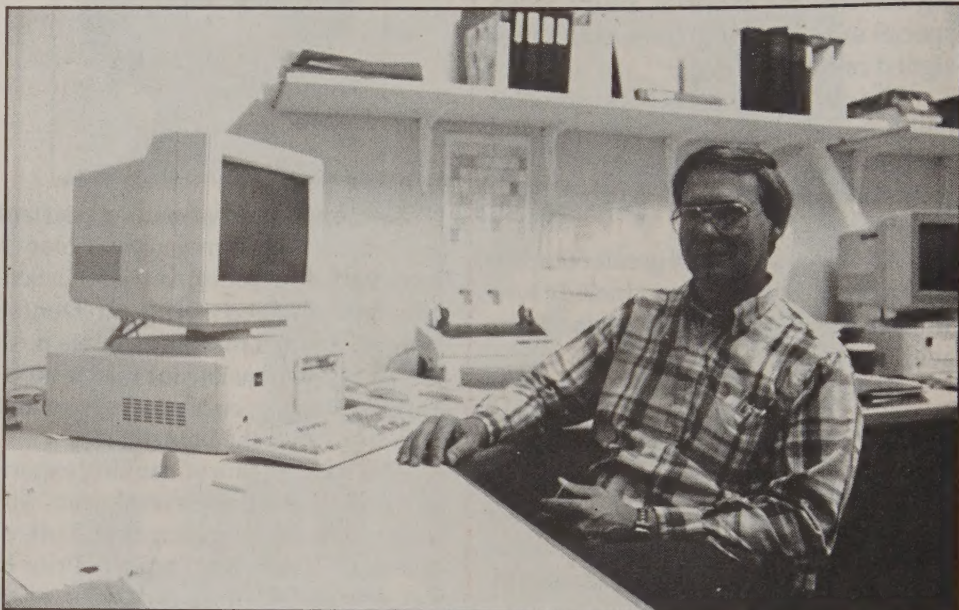


Photo by Charlie Fletcher

*Dale Barrett sits at one of several CAD workstations in his new Gearhart office.*

**B**ooming land development in Clatsop County drew Tillamook's largest civil engineering and surveying company to open a Gearhart office in June.

Handforth Larson & Barrett, Inc., a 19-year old firm with a staff of 23 opened its second office on U.S. 101, next to the Windjammer Motel. The Gearhart office, with it's staff of eight, is poised for a busy summer, said Dale Barrett, who is in charge of the new office.

"We're really geared to interest rates. We had quite an economy fueled here, and there weren't enough surveyors to go around last year," said Barrett. "Construction has been a little slow to get started, but it's going to be quite furious this summer."

Summer is the busiest time for the company. Last year they were six to eight weeks backlogged, Barrett said. This year they're in better shape.

Barrett is one of the three principal

owners of the company. All three are licensed civil engineers. Barrett, who is also a licensed surveyor, started with company in 1986, when there was only a staff of seven. Before coming to the company, he worked for Clatsop County as a surveyor.

The company opened an office in Clatsop County after the surveyor who had been doing most of the work in the area moved on. Barrett's company had been doing quite a bit of work in the area anyway. The new location will cut down on travel expenses, and what's more, the firm's Manzanita office wasn't big enough to meet the company's current needs.

"We should have been here a year ago, but we weren't staffed for it," said Barrett. "We have made quite a commitment here the last year or so hiring graduates from Oregon Institute of Technology and Oregon State University."

The company has also hired several people as surveyor trainees who had lost their jobs in the forest products industry. "We've had real good success



with a couple of people who have had no formal education," said Barrett. "It seems that common sense is the key in this work."

HLB provides surveying, engineering and planning services to individual, corporate and municipal clients in both Clatsop and Tillamook counties. Currently, the company does a lot of civil engineering in Tillamook County, and a lot of surveying in Clatsop County, said Barrett.

One of their largest projects in Clatsop County was the Coast Guard housing complex, in Astoria. In that job, the company surveyed the land, and then staked the positions for all the houses, roads and utilities. The work kept a full-time survey team busy for a year and a half, Barrett said.

Although, technically, surveying is the measurement of the locations of points, lines, and areas on the Earth's surface, a professional surveyor ends up doing a lot more than just "pinning down the corners" of a parcel, says Barrett. Quite a lot of research goes into the average survey to determine such things as how high a building will have to be built off the ground to be above the 100-year flood plain.

However the majority of surveys are done to retrace older, disputed surveys, said Barrett. In some areas on the Coast, surveys were done by amateurs, and property was bought and sold on the basis of relatively inaccurate information. Where these older surveys may have been done to the nearest five to 10 feet, today's surveyors measure to the nearest quarter inch.

In cases where there are disputes over property lines, Barrett encourages the property owners to resolve the problem themselves. However, many surveys are ordered by the court when property owners can't resolve differences, he said. A typical example is when two woodlot owners can't agree. When one finally starts logging the property, the other charges him with trespassing. They go to court, and the judge orders a survey.

Another recent case in Brighton caused quite a few headaches for HLB's surveyors. A developer hired HLB to create a subdivision of large, ocean-view estates. However during their research, surveyors found that many pieces of the land had been sold to private individu-

als in the early 1900s. The parcels were so small that no one could develop them — most only 25 feet by 50 feet.

The owners of these lots have continued to pay property taxes on them over the years, even though many didn't know where the property was. It was a case of people inheriting property in some far off place, and having no idea what to do with it, he said.

Surveyors had to track down these owners to see if they were interested in selling. For those who won't sell, the developer plans to set the project up in

such a way that an owner can get access to his property in the future.

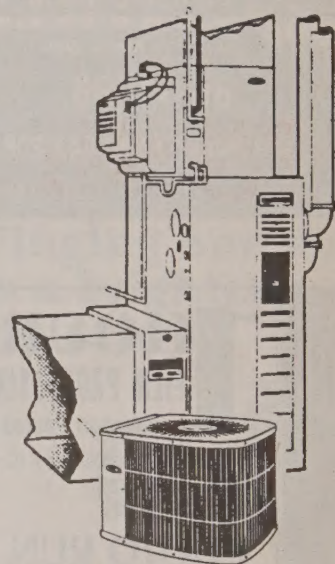
The company can also create topographical maps, Barrett said. The maps are useful for architects to use when planning a development.

The company's other mainstay of civil engineering provides lots of work, too. HLB has done a number of street improvement projects for clients such as the Port of Garibaldi. They also worked on sidewalk reconstruction in Gearhart.

"With the planning regulations and property values increasing, I don't ever see a lessening of our services," he said.

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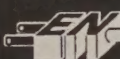


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## Issue Focus

# Decorating the workplace

From floor to ceiling: ideas to get you started

**I**f your home is a pleasing, comfortable enclave — a retreat from a busy world — think about this: You actually spend as much or even more time on the job. Have you put as much thought into how your job site is designed?

"A successful work environment is well planned, practical, and gives a sense of delight to be in," says Cannon Beach architect Jay Raskin. A good place to start in creating a work environment is to sit back and look at what work is done and how it is being done, he says. Note the type of space and how much space is needed. Note any special needs, such as ventilation, privacy, noise, electrical or telecommunications requirements, and what spaces need to be near each other and what others can be further away.

"You need to image the work place from the different points of view of those who will be using it or visiting it," says Raskin.

"If clients come to the work place, recognize that the work environment conveys a message about who you are and what you do, and can be a powerful tool to help your business attract and maintain clients," he said.

### Furniture

The deskbound among us may spend more time sitting in an office chair

than sleeping on our posture-enhancing mattresses. Yet many small businesses lag behind government workers when it comes to ergonomic chairs that are kind to the body and soul.

"What we see a lot of is small business owners who will spend \$5,000 on a computer and printer, \$300 on a desk, and then they'll use a kitchen chair to sit at," says Roy Latham, owner of Astoria Business Equipment Company in Astoria. "But they should put the computer on a couple of egg cartons and spend \$300 to \$400 on a good chair. The \$99 chair is just not healthy."

Today's ergonomic furniture has evolved well beyond the infamous "knee-stool" — the much touted ergonomic chair that Latham says subsequent studies proved harmful. Today's generation of office chairs come with fully adjustable seat tilt, arm rests, back pressure, and height adjustments. A good office chair can be totally customized to reduce or eliminate strain to delicate wrists, lower backs and cramp-prone legs.

Government employers and larger corporations are more aware of the financial impact of workman's compensation claims from repetitive stress injuries, said Latham. His company carries a range of devices: from wrists pads, to computer monitor tilt-swivel mounts and supports for computer mouse use.

For desks, the standard height of 27 inches is three inches higher than the optimal typing height. Latham says devices are available for attachment to desks — sliding drawers that fit underneath the desk, for example — that provide the correct height for a keyboard.

### Temperature control

Heating and cooling together account for half of all energy expended in commercial buildings, but just as importantly, indoor temperature directly impacts people productivity, and client comfort.

Even though the Coast is cool, the average commercial building generates a lot of heat from machines, office equip-

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ment and body heat, usually making air cooling a necessity, says Dale Johnson, a technician with P & L Johnson Mechanical in Astoria.

"People say we're down on the Coast and we don't need air conditioning," said Johnson. "But in the average commercial building, there's so much heat generated, and it's so tightly insulated that it's going to get toasty."

When the temperatures rise, productivity falls. "My personal observation," says Johnson, "is when the furnace goes down in the winter, they're kind of annoyed. But when the air conditioner goes down, people get really cranky and feisty."

The good news is that cooling is more efficient than ever, said Johnson. "In the last couple of years, the minimum efficiency we're selling was the high efficiency just two years ago."

**Lighting**

At 40 percent, lighting is the second biggest energy grabber in the office, according to Pacific Power and Light, but happily, the easiest to conserve. Lighting energy costs can be reduced by almost 40 percent on average with today's energy efficient lighting, according to Nancy Palermo, in Pacific Power's Seaside office.

You can convert four incandescent 75-watt lamps to a two-lamp fluorescent fixture and save \$483 per year for each 1,000 square feet, according to Palermo.

Newer fluorescent lamps are now available that have a special tri-phosphor coating. These lamps are more energy efficient and provide high-quality color that improves the appearance of the area being illuminated, said Palermo.

The application of lighting is also critical. "In most cases," says Raskin, "a mix of uniform and task lighting is a good strategy. If ceilings are high enough, consider turning the fluorescents upside down and bounce the light off the ceiling. This indirect light is very diffuse and gives a pleasing background light. Task lighting can then be provided at the areas that need a higher light level."

**Flooring**

Carpet is commonly the flooring of choice for most businesses, says Doug

McGraw, owner of McGraw's North Coast Flooring, in Seaside. But whatever the finished choice, it will only be as good as what's underneath and that's where a professional installation is crucial, says McGraw.

"If they don't have the right contractor, they can have a ton of problems," he said. "You've got to have the right underlay."

Subflooring and preparation work are critical to the final result.

Most work places have a lot more traffic than residential floors, so heavy-duty carpet is a must. The new advance generation of tightly constructed nylon carpets offer good wear and a multi-colored carpets weave can hide dirt and stains, said McGraw. Another option for stain-repellant carpet is the solution-dyed fibers. Nylon starts out as a liquid. If it's dyed as a liquid — solution dyeing — there are no microscopic undyed areas on the fiber which can hold in stains. It's more expensive, but for a long-term investment, it's a good choice, said McGraw. Whatever the choice of flooring, vacuuming once a day is the best way to preserve your investment.

Another aspect of the office from the bottom up is "cable management," says Raskin. Since computers and telecommunications have become an integral part of most work environments, he says, make sure outlets are located where needed to reduce unsightly cables and cords and provide flexibility. "One trick is to run electrical baseboards around perimeter walls which allows you to place outlets where you need them," said Raskin.

**Visual setting**

The visual background sets the mood and tone for employees and customers, says Jan Mead, of Mead Interiors, in Astoria.

"Color is a big thing," says Mead. "You don't want colors that are jarring."

Institutions choose greens and blues because those colors are more peaceful — both are found in the largest areas in nature, says Mead. However, red arouses the senses. If you painted your reception area red, you might be in trouble, she said.

Bold geometric designs are usually out of place in work areas because they can make the eye waiver. "You want something subdued but not shiny. Textured walls are better. It's easier to clean a shiny surface, but it's not better for people to work around," said Mead.

White work surfaces can reflect light in an uncomfortable way. In one office she decorated, employees had to have colored blotters to cut down on the glare.

Natural light can be an important mood lifter, says Mead. "People tend to be in a happier frame of mind if the room is sunnier." Natural lighting is also important for customers who need to view prospective purchases in natural light or for certain types of work requiring employees to see true colors. ■

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# Telecommunications

The information super highway comes to Clatsop County via Clatsop Community College

**C**onnecting rural Oregonians to the Information Superhighway was the subject of a statewide conference held June 15.

The Teleconnections in Oregon conference, which was held locally at Clatsop Community College, was conducted over Oregon ED-NET. It brought together more than 100 participants at 14 locations around the state, and was thought to be the largest get-together of its kind in the state.

"I was pretty inspired," said Jane Hill, director of special education for Columbia 5J School District. "I've taken part in a lot of ED-NET conferences, and this was the best." The conference used satellite communications equipment to provide a simultaneous, two-way video and audio link for the participants. Hill was one of 10 people who attended the conference locally.

Oregon ED-NET is a state telecom-

munications network that provides satellite video and computer conferencing services.

"I thought it was an excellent first step," said Judith St. Claire, the site facilitator in Astoria. "It got a lot of people on the air. It got a lot of people who'd never done it before in the network."

Participants at the conference got a chance to make their priorities known so far as telecommunications in rural Oregon is concerned in preparation for discussion of the state's budget. The group also discussed ways to put on a telecommunications conference in the fall that will explore strategies for keeping the state current in its application of technology.

"The citizens of rural Oregon cannot ever assume that someone else is going to do it. We have to cooperate, but we need to keep our collective interest clear and on the front burner," said Dr. David Gilbert, president of Eastern Oregon State College, in La Grande.

Although there was broad consen-

sus that more telecommunications capabilities are needed in rural Oregon, there was little agreement on the ways expansion should take place.

The cost of services was a contentious issue. "It appears to me that folks want the service, but they don't want to pay for it," said Paul Owens, who represented Nehalem Tel and Tel at the conference. "The person who causes the cost should bear the cost."

However others at the conference thought government should provide assistance to rural areas of the state, so they remain competitive in spite of their distance from population centers.

Few in Clatsop County are aware of the many services already available, said Bonnie Allen, library director at Clatsop Community College Library. "We need to educate folks, so they know what's available before we ask them what they want," she said.

The full range of services that ED-NET provides are available in Clatsop County. These include ED-NET I, a one-way video, two-way audio teleconferencing system available at seven sites throughout the county; ED-NET II, a two-way compressed digital video conferencing system available at one site at the college; and Compass, an online computer information network that provides individuals with statewide and Internet e-mail, bulletin board and computer conferencing services.

Compass is available for local dial-up access through an Astoria telephone number. Callers from Knappa and Seaside will have local access to Compass in November when US West provides Extended Area Service to subscribers from those areas.

Even though the subject of telecommunications is rife with technical jargon, there's still room for those who aren't technically minded, said Hill. "Somehow I had felt that because I didn't know much about it, everyone else was very knowledgeable. But there's still a role for the rest of us." ■

## Real Estate

Real Estate Update for Clatsop County for May:

\$ volume of homes sold:	\$6,775,127.40
# of homes sold:	62
Average Sales Price:	\$109,276.25

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# Job listings

State's computerized listing service opens new doors for job seekers

**V**isitors to the Clatsop Community College Library

can now investigate job openings with the state's computerized job listing service.

The service, which was previously available only at state Employment Department field offices can now be accessed by using a computer and modem at the library, said Mary Merrill, director of cooperative education at Clatsop.

"It's pretty exciting. I'm really glad the students have access to it," said Merrill. Using computerized job listings gives her students a more realistic perspective of the market during career counselling, she said.

The system at the college provides both the state's job listings and another related service, called America's Job Bank. America's Job Bank is a computerized national employment referral network that links all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam.

The system provides a database of employment opportunities in each location, and electronically transmits the information to each state. States, in turn, link qualified candidates with the existing openings through more than 2,000 local offices.

Jobs found in America's Job Bank are frequently those that may be difficult to fill from the local pool of workers. In this way, the database helps states address labor imbalances.

The job listings are also providing valuable information to college instructors, Merrill said. The instructors are able to gain up to date information about what qualifications employers are looking for. That information can be used to refine course offerings.

The availability of computerized job listings at the college library is part of a trend toward using technology to increase accessibility to information through technology, said Joyce Aho,

Astoria and St. Helens field office manager for the state Employment Department.

"The whole state is going toward trying to work smarter with technology to make the process more efficient," she said. Other state agencies are also researching ways to make information available via computer, but are currently hampered by technical problems and confidentiality requirements, she said.

"From an employer's point of view, it's pretty amazing," said Merrill. "It's free advertising."

When a person finds a job listing he is interested in, he is instructed to call the employment office, and report the listing number. The staff at the employment office determines if the prospective applicant is qualified for the position.

"Only the employment office has the name of the employer, so the applicant has to be interviewed by the employment office staff first before going

out on an interview," said Merrill. "The employer has control over how the screening takes place, and doesn't have to be inundated with phone calls."

Employers placing job listings with the employment office have considerable flexibility in how referrals are made, said Merrill. They can get a lot of assistance with pre-screening applicants by the employment office staff, or they can have every applicant referred directly, or work out some intermediate compromise.

The Employment Department is looking for more employers interested in placing job listings, Aho said. "We're not the only resource, and we recognize that. Yet we do have employers that routinely list with us." ■

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## Home Baking bakes the county's cake

**W**hen Clatsop County celebrated its 150th birthday June 22, the county's oldest bakery baked the birthday cake.

Home Baking Company, which opened its doors in 1910, provided enough cake to feed 500 people for the celebration held at the Astoria Column. The chocolate and carrot cake confections were decorated by Kathy Tilander, wife of third-generation bakery owner, Jim Tilander.

"I think Astoria is an extremely interesting place. It was nice to be included in that," said Kathy Tilander. The bakery supplied six cakes for the event, including one decorated with a map of Clatsop County and another cut in the shape of the Astoria Column.

Arthur A. Tilander originally started the business in 1910 on Duane Street where Safeway is now. Tilander was



Photo by Charlie Fletcher

*Kathy Tilander puts the finishing touches on her bakery's latest culinary creation.*

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Finnish baker, and called his business the Finnish Home Bakery.

In 1915 the company moved to a wooden building that once stood next door to its present location on Marine Drive. Tilander changed the name of the business to simply, Home Baking Company. That same year, he had a son, named Arthur H. Tilander. The family lived in an apartment above the bakery. At 15, Arthur H. Tilander started working in the business, too.

The business continued to expand, and, in 1929 a new cement building was built next door to the bakery, which the company used as a garage for their delivery trucks.

At that time, Astoria was a different place, geographically and economically than it is today. The bakery was located at the center of a shopping district. It served customers within walking distance of the shop, and also had a thriving wholesale business delivering baked goods as far away as Portland.

In 1940, young Arthur H. Tilander

went to school at the Dunwoody Institute, in Minneapolis, Minn., where he studied commercial baking. Upon returning from school, he took charge of the business.

World War II presented challenges for the bakery. While he lost some of his personnel to the draft, Arthur H. Tilander was told to stay on because his business was economically essential. In fact, the bakery provided baked goods for many soldiers and sailors stationed in the area during the war.

In 1943, the old wooden building was lost to fire, and the operation was consolidated in the newer cement building. The wholesale operation was cut back, and the retail sales expanded.

Arthur H. Tilander's son, Jim Tilander, began working at the bakery in 1964, and, in 1983 took over management duties. At about that same time, Jim Tilander's future wife, Kathy, came on the scene. "It was romance by the toast machine," Kathy Tilander remembers.





Photo by Charlie Fletcher

*Kathy, Arthur, and Jim Tilander take in the wonderful aroma of Scandinavian cinnamon bread.*

Kathy Tilander was in Astoria on vacation from her job at Disneyland. Tired of the crowds, she came to visit her two sisters in Astoria. "I actually thought I'd go back. Disneyland is the most fun place to work." However the woman who was managing the bakery at the time asked Kathy to help out for a while. One thing led to another, and now she's been here 12 years. She keeps the books, manages the sales of cinnamon toast, and decorates lots of cakes.

Jim and Kathy Tilander bought the bakery from Arthur H. Tilander in 1989. "It's an honest way to make a living," says Jim.

The business today is about half retail and half wholesale, said Jim Tilander. The retail business is done from their storefront on Marine Drive. About half the wholesale trade is local sales to restaurants, while the rest is in sales of Scandinavian cinnamon toast — the company's most popular item.

Scandinavian toast is shipped by truck as far away as Seattle. People even order the toast by mail from the East Coast. It has long been the bakery's most popular item.

The company puts out about 600 to 1,000 loaves a week. "It's an old-fashioned way of preserving bread," said Jim Tilander. "My grandfather used to ship toast to Alaska in wooden barrels." The toast, and many of the bakery's other recipes, come directly from Finland, he said.

Two master bakers, Jim Vaughn and Bill Hullet, have been with the company

since 1970. Vaughn's specialties are cookies, éclair shells and tarts. Hullet bakes most of the cakes and breads.

"Each of us has an area we specialize in, but we've worked together for 25 years, so we can interchange," said Jim Tilander.

The bakers arrive at 1 a.m. or earlier to mix dough. The store opens for business at 6 a.m. with fresh baked goods, and the bakers go home at 9 a.m.

"Most of the products are still made from scratch. That's what makes us different from most bakeries," said Kathy Tilander. They even grind their own cardamom.

"They've been a real easy firm to deal with," says Newt Schneider, manager of the Seaside Pig'n Pancake, a long-time wholesale customer. "They're not afraid to experiment with stuff."

Schneider has been purchasing from Home Baking Company for 12 years. One of the more memorable, and difficult, preparations the bakery made for him was chocolate éclairs stuffed with ice cream.

About a quarter of the bakery's retail business comes from tourists. The

business has been featured prominently in many travel articles over the years, including articles by the noted gourmet writer, James Beard.

Last year, the *Los Angeles Times* listed only two Astoria attractions in their write-up about the Oregon Trail celebration: Home Baking and the Columbia River Maritime Museum. As a result, the bakery had tourists dropping in at a prodigious rate last summer.

Home Baking has also garnered benefits from movie productions in Astoria, said Jim Tilander. Just about every movie company caterer has bought baked goods from them, he said. ■

## Bank wins award

First Interstate Bank won an award for providing and tracking energy-efficient mortgages which make a home more affordable.

The Partners for Homeownership award was given by Fannie Mae and The Bonneville Power Administration, in cooperation with the Washington State Energy Office. ■

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cept.

Bob Webb managed the medical bookstore from 1991 until 1993 when the Webbs moved to Seaside. The experience prepared him for the business aspects of running the toy store. He learned about accounting procedures and inventory procurement, he said.

The Webbs got interested in the environment while living in the Syracuse area where industrial pollution is a major problem. Syracuse is situated near Lake Ontario, one of the five great lakes. The lake is so polluted, the Webbs said, that it will never be completely cleaned up.

Much of the lake's pollution stems from Allied Chemical, a company that carried on operations on the lake shore for 70 years, dumping a whole host of chemicals into the water, Bob Webb said. However the local populace made things worse by dumping cars, appliances and all sorts of other things into the lake, as well. "Lots of people did that back there," said Karin Webb. "It's a way of life."

"It's really important for people to realize how good they have it here," said Bob Webb. The Webbs moved to the Oregon Coast because of its environment, and see others doing the same thing all around the county.

The toy selection at Under the Big Top is unusual to say the least. It's full of toys to challenge the mind. The store features a large collection of items with an environmental theme, from puzzles to hard-to-find science kits.

"I think the fact that our shop has such a strong environmental theme is unique," said Karin Webb.

But at the same time, there's a strong element of fun, because, after all, it is a toy store. So a shopper will also find items created just for fun. One of the more popular items is a series of puzzles with extra pieces intentionally included in the box for added difficulty.

Getting to know which items to carry and where to buy them has been the greatest challenge, he said. "You have to ask a lot of questions of the product."

"It wasn't until this spring that we felt like it was getting where we wanted it to be," said Bob Webb.

The myth that the Webbs try to debunk is that their shop is just an expensive tourist trap. "Tourists are the nuts and bolts of the business," said Bob Webb. Yet, at the same time, the store

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*"We're learning from  
our customers. Demand  
does shape what you sell,  
ultimately."*

---

has a lot to offer local people, too. "Our prices are not out of line. They're competitive with Fred Meyer and Payless on the things we both carry," said Bob Webb.

"We're learning from our customers. Demand does shape what you sell, ultimately," said Bob Webb. "We really look hard for things that will challenge people. We try to choose things that have the most play value."

The Webbs structured their little

store carefully. "Even though we are limited by space, we have lots of hands-on opportunities for people," Bob Webb said. He finds that leaving toys out for people to play with get them involved, and attracts more people into the store.

However, when all is said and done, lifestyle is what the Webbs moved here for. "It's important to us to spend as much time as we can with our kids," said Bob Webb. The way they were living in New York was like wearing golden handcuffs, he said. It was expensive and time consuming, even though they were making lots of money. "It becomes a chasing your tail kind of thing," said Bob Webb.

"We only have 40 years left, if we're lucky. We want to live a healthier life style," said Karin Webb.

Now that they're reliving on the Coast, the Webbs are coming to find that some adjustments are in order. "Out here, we have to teach ourselves to relax," said Bob Webb. ■

## Governor says economy improving

Gov. Barbara Roberts announced good news for Oregon's economy, based on the June 1 quarterly economic and revenue forecast.

"What it boils down to is: More Oregonians are working, thousands of new jobs are being created, wages are going up, and corporate profits are growing dramatically," said Roberts. "That's good news for our workers, families, and businesses, and it's good news for Oregon's state government. As our economy grows, our state revenues grow, allowing us to reinvest in those efforts that have helped create this booming business climate for our state."

The economic forecast contained these encouraging facts:

- Oregon's economy grew briskly in the first quarter of 1994 with wage and salary employment growing more than three percent for two quarters in a row.
- Durable goods manufacturing grew almost 10 percent in the first quarter, adding high-paying jobs to Oregon's economy.
- Oregon corporations' profits are growing rapidly: April corporate income tax collections are twice what they were two years ago.

- Per capita income in Oregon grew 4.5 percent during 1993, compared to 3.5 percent growth nationally.

- Oregon will add more than 75,000 new non-farm jobs in 1994 and 1995.

Those factors overall mean that Oregon's income tax collections are rising, now and in the next biennium. General fund resources for 1995-97 are now estimated to be \$7.24 billion. In addition, growing lottery revenues, added to the impact of the court decision on video poker, mean the state will have total lottery resources in 1995-97 estimated at \$591 million.

"The best way to lead our state to healthy future is to lay a foundation for a strong economy, encouraging self-sufficiency in Oregonians and building on our economic strengths — our workforce, our infrastructure and our business climate," she said. "These dollars do not mean that Oregon will not face tough funding decisions, or that we will not have to cut some valued programs in state government. But they do mean that we have the opportunity to invest in those critical areas that will help to keep our economy and jobs growing." ■



# Partnerships

Networking between social agencies means better workers for local business

**E**xpansion is the name of the game for MTC Training and Placement Services.

The company's Clatsop County district office was scheduled to move to the Premarq Center, in Warrenton, June 29, according to Jill Elkins, district director for the Clatsop and Columbia County district of MTC Training and Placement.

The Training and Placement Service was scheduled to open at its new 4,900 square foot facility July 5.

"The whole thought of the Premarq Center was to find something that was large enough for expansion," said Elkins. In the very near future, she said, agencies such as MTC and the state Employ-

ment Department will be encouraged to create a "one-stop shop." This idea is being promoted by the U.S. Labor Department as a way to make aid more accessible to those who need it.

Elkins is negotiating with Adult and Family Services and the state Employment Department. Those two services, as well as others, may join MTC at Premarq Center with representatives at that location to further the one-stop concept. That concept is one that Elkins finds very significant. Partnerships between the various agencies is what makes the process successful, she said.

The service will also open an on-site public day care facility for its students to use in the near future, Elkins said.

Although she is happy with the new facility, Elkins was disappointed that

she couldn't find a suitable spot in Astoria. "We looked at buildings in Astoria," she said. "If we found one with offices, it didn't have training space. If it had training space, it didn't have offices."

MTC Training and Placement is actually part of a much larger, national company. Management & Training Corporation is a rapidly growing company that uses education and training programs to produce economic independence and career skills. The company, which is usually referred to as MTC, was founded in 1980.

MTC was formerly the Education and Training Division of Thiokol Corporation. It has rapidly become the largest private contractor to the U.S. Department of Labor. The company has nearly 30 years experience providing education and training to America's educationally and economically disadvantaged youth.

With more than 4,500 employees nationwide, MTC holds contracts with the U.S. government to operate Job Corps centers, such as the one at Tongue Point. The company, based in Ogden, Utah, manages numerous large federal buildings for the General Services Administration. The company also operates two prisons, the Eagle Mountain Community Correctional Facility, in California, and the Mirana Community Treatment Facility, in Arizona.

However MTC Training and Placement is not directly related to Tongue Point Job Corps, even though they are both run by the same parent company. Previously owned by General Electric Co., MTC Training and Placement is unique in the MTC organization, said Elkins. While the corporation operates 27 Job Corps centers in many states across the country, the Training and Placement Services are only on Oregon's North Coast.

The main difference between the Job Corps and Training and Placement services is the age of the program participants. Job corps is a residential youth

## Revised wood frame construction manual available

A key reference manual for commercial and multifamily wood frame construction has been updated by Western Wood Products Association to give architects and engineers the information they need to use Western lumber in such projects.

Wood Frame Design, a 32-page technical guide on commercial/multifamily construction up to four stories, has been revised to reflect the In-Grade lumber design values which building codes are now referencing. It also includes up-

dated references detailing the provisions for wood-frame multistory construction in all the major building codes.

The manual focuses on how various wood wall, floor and roof assemblies should be properly connected. It also includes sections which have been updated to reflect the newest information about wood-frame performance during earthquakes and high winds.

Copies of the revised book are available for \$1.75 each from WWP. Call 503-224-3930. ■

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program. The program is designed to help disadvantaged youth from 16 to 24 to acquire job skills and improve their education.

On the other hand, Training and Placement Services is set up to target disadvantaged youth and adults, and is not a residential program. The program provides job-specific training in a variety of areas. The program provided help to 756 adults and 238 youths in fiscal year 1992-93.

Training and Placement Services is funded through a combination of state and federal contracts, and has contracts totalling \$3 million per year. The program serves about 1,200 people in the district.

"I work for the feds, I work for the state, I work for MTC, and I work for myself, because I run this company," said Elkins.

Pre-employment training is available through the program for those seeking job opportunities. This training teaches people how to look for jobs, to write a résumé, interview, and other related skills.

Job-specific training is available through the service in five areas: IBM computer training, Macintosh computer training, hospitality and customer service training, business and clerical techniques, and food and beverage servers training.

The company also pays for people to get training elsewhere, if necessary, Elkins, said. "We can't pay for two years of college for someone, but if they want to go to college to get a welding certificate, we can pay for that."

Training and Placement also gives employers an incentive to hire trainees for on the job training. Training and

Placement subsidizes the employer to the tune of half the trainee's wages. The employer is required to hire the trainee for a full-time, permanent position at the end of the training period.

The company can also help by purchasing clothes, tools, child care and even transportation, if needed, said Elkins.

"My goal for this company is not just to focus on disadvantaged people, but to set up services to serve a broader range," Elkins said. "We're looking at ways where we can serve whomever walks through the door." ■

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## Businesses in this issue

Phone numbers for businesses featured in **Lower Columbia BUSINESS** in this issue:

American Martial Arts Academy, Astoria, 325-9133

Handforth, Larson & Barrett, Inc., Seaside, 738-3425

Home Baking Company, Astoria, 325-4631

Under the Big Top, Seaside, 738-8319

MTC Job Training & Placement Services, Astoria, 325-1156

PriceCostco, Warrenton, 861-1948



# Local economic development

Task Force will examine effectiveness of county agency in anticipation of future funding needs

**T**he Clatsop County Economic Development Council, a county agency which fielded over a 1,000

inquiries last year, may not be in operation a year from now unless a new source of funding is found, according to David K. Price, the council's chair.

Price was on hand June 27 in Warrenton to kick off the first meeting

of the council's evaluation task force, recently appointed by the Clatsop County Commission. Though CEDC's tasks continue to grow, a funding crunch is threatening to shut the operation down entirely for part of next year, Price told task force members.

The county has over \$200,000 in video poker money, but commissioners aren't ready to turn it over to the council for economic development until the task force answers the question of whether the council is the best and only way to handle economic development in the county.

The group's first task, according to vice chair John Wubben, Clatsop Community College president, is to do an analysis of the council's effectiveness in addressing what county residents think most important in economic development. "We need to identify gaps between what people think you should be doing that you're not," he said. "Analysis of control and funding — that comes later."

The task force, composed of eight members from around the county, has until January to come up with a recommendation to the county's budget committee. Depending on what the group's recommendation is, the council could be disbanded, and an entirely new entity could be established. Or county economic development dollars could be handed out to other local entities like cities or chambers of commerce.

CEDC was formed 19 years ago, specifically for the purpose of accessing federal economic development money. Since then, the 100-volunteer organization, funded by a combination of private and public dollars, has grown into an umbrella organization that responds to a variety of inquiries for doing business in Clatsop County. It refers potential new businesses to cities, the port, the chambers of commerce or state entities, such as the Division of State Lands.

CEDC board members, who were at the June 27 meeting to answer task force

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member's questions, admitted that communication among the 18 different entities handling economic development in the county could be improved.

However Gil Gramson, a council board member and Warrenton city manager, said the council has become a good vehicle and offers effective representation throughout the county. "But the time has come for change because we are not able to do what we are expected to do," said Gramson.

At the group's next meeting, scheduled for July 11, task force members will take a more detailed look at just how those 18 different organizations are funded and what tasks they undertake. Among the 18 are the county's city governments, the Port of Astoria, the chambers of commerce, and newly formed groups, such as the County's Vision Task force, and the Regional Strategies Board.

Board Member Geoff Stone pointed out that the council has always been a reactive, not a proactive organization. "We're a catalyst, a central infrastructure. What I'm hearing here is, do we take on a more active role?"

Joan Pratt, a task force member, told County Commissioner Don Haskell that the council needed more direction from the county on the role the council should play.

Haskell said the 100 volunteers who work for the group would "resent it terribly if the county took charge."

He said it appeared to him that the public perception is that the council "has developed into more of a social organization that doesn't do too much. "What brought it to a head was when CEDC made the request for the county to fund it more," said Haskell. "We don't really want to take over and run CEDC. The task force really ought to consider whether you want the county to fund you that much. Because, if you do, the voters will want professional management."

Perhaps the group's stickier issue will be to try to pin down just what the voters understand economic development to be.

"What is economic development?" asked task force member June Spence, an Astoria Port Commissioner. "Is it air service, an industrial park, or a golf course?"

Janet Stevenson predicted no unanimity would ever be possible in trying to define the term, much like the local debate last year when a council task force tried to pin down a definition of a "family-wage" job. ■

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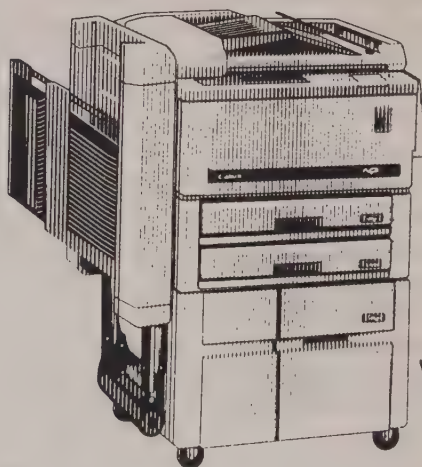


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# Getting involved

Wholesale giant gives to local school kids to spur them toward achievement

**P**arents of children attending Lewis and Clark Elementary School, in Astoria, were shocked at the end of the school year when Price Costco announced it would provide school supplies to all incoming students in September.

The contribution, which is being done under the auspices of the Cities in Schools program, will consist of approximately 450 purple backpacks filled with pens, pencils, crayons, a three-ring binder, paper, and many other essential school supplies, according to Doug Homer, manager of Price Costco's Warrenton Warehouse.

"I was really shocked," said Clarissa Caccavano, a member of the Lewis and Clark Parents Club. "I think a lot of people think it's just a fund raising thing, and it's more than that."

The donation of school supplies is only the beginning of a long-term partnership, said Homer. The company also plans to help with several other projects. These will include employee participation in tutoring and mentoring programs.

Costco has plans to help with fundraising for several construction projects at the school, too. These include the purchase of badly-needed playground equipment and the construction of a nature trail behind the school.

This will be the first time Costco has

adopted a school in Oregon. However the company began its association with the Cities in Schools program in 1991. Costco gave away 3,500 filled backpacks to students in the Puget Sound area in 1993. In 1994, the company plans to distribute 44,000 filled backpacks through partnerships between individual Price Costco Warehouses and local schools.

Even though the program will most certainly decrease the company's sales of school supplies, Homer considers the contribution to be vital. "There's a whole heck of a lot of kids who can't afford to buy school supplies. This is a human issue, not just a dollars and cents issue," he said.

Cities in Schools is the country's largest non-profit organization devoted to dropout prevention. The group targets homeless and needy school sites, bringing resources from the community into the schools, including jobs, counseling, drug rehabilitation, health care, social services, tutoring and mentoring.

The Seattle-based organization originally started in New York in the 1950s, but relocated to the Northwest in 1991. That same year, Price Costco began its relationship with the group. The company found that the partnership with Cities in Schools worked best when one warehouse was matched with one local school. Six Puget Sound warehouses participated in the program in 1993.

The company looks for a tie between a local warehouse and the school that

will hold the partnership together, Homer said. In the case of the Warrenton warehouse, the spouse of an employee at the warehouse in Warrenton will be a teacher at Lewis and Clark School in 1994.

"What they look for is a natural link between the school and business," said Marsha Abel, who works in marketing and membership at Costco. She is married to Emmett Abel, a kindergarten teacher at Lewis and Clark. The Abel's relationship, coupled with the high need for help at the school, played a role in the selection of Lewis and Clark for aid, according to Marsha Abel.

Two other local businesses have agreed to participate in the program, said Homer. The Goodie Candy Company and Astoria Ice Company will work with Costco in various fund-raising efforts. Homer hopes to see more local businesses join the program, and adopt other schools. ■

## Sesquicentennial continues

In honor of Clatsop County's Sesquicentennial this year, local merchants will market a variety of memorabilia including limited edition posters designed by Astoria artist Tom Hannen, owner of Hire-A-Graphics, commemorative plates and publications.

The half-year-long celebration will culminate at the end of 1994 with the burying of a time capsule at the Astoria Column. Community leaders will be invited to submit items to include in the capsule.

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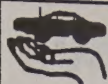
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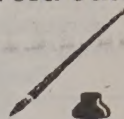
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**July**

- 18 Astoria City Council, 7 p.m.  
PC Users League of the Sunset Empire, 7 p.m., 325-4873
- 19 Port of Astoria Regular Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 Warrenton City Commission, 7 p.m.
- 21 Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Seaside Chamber Friday Coffee, Geri's Restaurant, 8 a.m.
- 25 Seaside City Council, 7 p.m.
- 26 CEDC Agriculture Committee, Port of Astoria Commission Meeting Room, 1 p.m.  
Astoria Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- 27 Clatsop County Commission, Seaside City Hall, 7 p.m.
- 28 Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 29 Seaside Chamber Friday Coffee, Geri's Restaurant, 8 a.m.

**August**

- 1 Astoria City Council, 7 p.m.
- 2 Astoria-Warrenton Chamber Merchants Committee, 7:30 a.m.  
Astoria-Warrenton Chamber Ambassadors Committee, 6 p.m.  
Seaside Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Astoria-Warrenton Chamber Fisheries Committee, noon  
Warrenton City Commission, 7 p.m.  
Seaside Improvement Commission, 7 p.m.

- 4 Fine Friends, Pizza Harbor, 7 p.m.
- 5 Seaside Chamber Friday Coffee, Geri's Restaurant, 8 a.m.  
Clatsop County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Seaside City Council, 7 p.m.
- 9 Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m.
- 10 Warrenton Planning Commission, 7 p.m.  
Clatsop County Commission, Clatsop County Courthouse, 7 p.m.
- 12 Lower Columbia Tourism Committee, 7:30 p.m.  
Seaside Chamber Friday Coffee, Geri's Restaurant, 8 a.m.  
Astoria-Warrenton Chamber Economic Development Committee, noon

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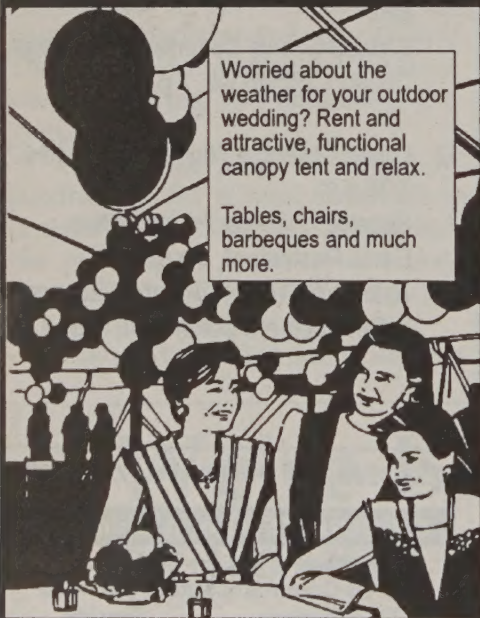
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# News in Brief

◆ Providence Seaside Hospital's \$6 million construction project will get underway by Aug. 1, according to Leslie Shepherd, executive assistant to the hospital. The contract for additions and remodeling to Providence Seaside was awarded to Brockamp & Jaeger, Inc., of Oregon City. The project is expected to last 18 months, and is being funded by general obligation bonds financed through the Union Health District, approved by a 2 to 1 margin at the Sept. 15, 1992 election. Along with development of the long-term care program, departments to be renovated and remodeled include Laboratory, Radiology, Emergency, Chemotherapy, Lobby, Day Surgery, and Admitting.

◆ Brenda Penner, RN, has been hired as manager of Columbia Memorial Hospital's Home Health Service. The hospital decided to establish a Home Health Service when Clatsop County's Commissioners voted in January to discontinue the Health Department's Home Health program.

Penner has been a staff nurse at Clatsop County Home Health for six years and was instrumental in setting up the hospital's new department. The new service should be operational by Sept. 1.

Before accepting this new position, Penner had been a member of Columbia Memorial Hospital's Board of Trustees since June 1990.

Computer Power of Seaside was awarded the contract to complete 10,486 systems to equip the new alternative learning center in Tillamook for Training and Placement Services division of Management Training Corporation. "Computer Power commends that company's management for deciding to purchase from a local business and investing in the economy of Oregon's North Coast communities," said Scott Spies, manager of Computer Power.

◆ The unemployment rate for Clatsop County dropped over a full percentage point to 7.4 percent in April, with most of the increase attributable to gains in trade and services, marking the beginning of the tourism season.

The poverty rate in Clatsop County now stands at 14.4 percent, up significantly from the 11.6 percent rate of a decade ago. Currently the poverty rate for a family of four is an annual income of \$14,800.

◆ **Leading Communities into the 21st Century: Pioneering Oregon's Future**, is the first conference in Oregon which joins together public and private local and state decision makers in a collaborative spirit to address the interconnected issues facing the health of Oregonians, their economy and the environment. The conference is set for Sept. 9-10 in Wilsonville. Teams of local experts (business leaders, developers, financial lenders, and government officials) will work on solutions and tools that help local leaders sustain healthy development while maintaining the character of their communities.

International experts Hazel Henderson, and Robert Gilman will make appearances. Henderson is the author of the bestseller, *The Politics of the Solar Age* and *Paradigms in Progress* and an international consultant on development policy, syndicated columnist and futurist. Gilman is founding editor of the journal, *In Context*.

For registration information, write Oregon Healthy Cities and Communities, P. O. Box 6122, Salem, OR 97304.

◆ **Shanghied in Astoria** opens July 14 and continues every Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evening through Aug. 20 at the Astoria Eagle's Fritz Westmann Hall. Admission is \$12, \$8, \$7, and \$5 for children, seniors and students. For advance reservations call the Opry Co., 325-6104. ■





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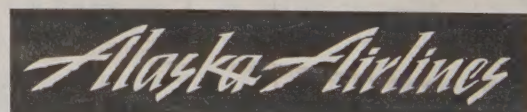


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